

Message Text

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ORIGIN INT-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 OES-07 IO-14 CU-04 AF-10
EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-07
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 INR-07 L-03 NSF-02
NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02 FEA-01
/164 R

DRAFTED BY INT/FW:D.B.MCGRATH
APPROVED BY OES/ENP/EN:DRKING
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-----110017Z 029220 /72

P 102152Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 134978

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, TATT, VE, US

SUBJECT: TRANSMISSION OF DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF US
INTERIOR DEPARTMENT AND GOV MIN OF ENVIRONMENT REPRESENTA-
TIVES RE PROPOSED TRAINING CENTER FOR PARK AND WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

1. FOLLOWING ARE DRAFT MINUTES OF RECENT MEETING IN WHICH
AGREEMENT REACHED ON DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND SE-
QUENCE OF STEPS TO BE TAKEN TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF PROPOSED
TRAINING CENTER. SINCE IT IS NECESSARY THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE
SAME CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THESE ESSENTIAL POINTS, INTERIOR
WOULD LIKE TO HAVE LIZARALDE AND (OR ON BEHALF OF) ENVIRON-
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MENT MIN REVIEW THESE MINUTES AND ADVISE OF ANY CHANGES HE
(THEY) DESIRE SO THAT WE CAN MODIFY ACCORDINGLY AND THERE-
AFTER TREAT THEM AS AGREED AND OFFICIAL PLANS. IT IS NOT,
AT THIS POINT, NECESSARY, AS FAR AS INTERIOR IS CONCERNED,
TO MAKE THESE INTO A FORMAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.
HOWEVER, WHEN THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT CONSULTANT IS ACTUAL-
LY ASSIGNED, A BRIEF, SPECIFIC DOCUMENT OR EXCHANGE OF LET-
TERS SHOULD BE EXECUTED COVERING CONSULTANT'S DUTIES, PAY,
SUPPORT, ETC.

2. REQUEST EMBASSY PASS TEXT TO DEWAR OF FUDENA FOR HIM TO DISCUSS WITH LIZARALDE AND ADVISE OF CHANGES AS SOON AS

POSSIBLE. PLEASE ALSO ADVISE LIZARALDE THAT INTERIOR IS PROCEEDING TO SELECT BEST AVAILABLE CONSULTANT CANDIDATE AND WILL PROVIDE PARTICULARS FOR LIZARALDE'S APPROVAL AS SOON AS TENTATIVE SELECTION IS MADE AND AVAILABILITY CONFIRMED.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MESSRS. ALBERTO LIZARALDE OF THE VENEZUELAN MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES, NICHOLA& DEWAR OF THE FOUNDATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE AND DAVID MCGRATH OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, CARACAS, VENEZUELA, JUNE 2, 1977.

THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN THE OFFICE OF MR. LIZARALDE AT 12:00 NOON, JUNE 2, 1977 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE ON STEPS TO BE TAKEN TOWARD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTER-AMERICAN SCHOOL FOR PARK AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL. THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDINGS WERE REACHED:

1. MINISTER GABALDON WILL REPLY IN WRITING TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY HERBST'S LETTER ACCEPTING THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE A CONSULTANT TO EXPLORE CONDITIONS AND PREPARE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TRAINING UNCLASSIFIED

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CENTER.

2. THE CONSULTANT'S FIRST RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE TO CONSULT WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY (SEE BELOW) AND MAKE AN ASSESSMENT OF THEIR INTEREST IN, NEED FOR AND PROBABLE PARTICIPATION IN THE SCHOOL. HE WILL ALSO EXPLORE AND ASSESS OTHER FACTORS RELATING TO THE PROSPECTS FOR THE SCHOOL. IF THESE ASSESSMENTS ARE ACCEPTED AS FAVORABLE BY THE SPONSORING PARTIES, THE CONSULTANT WILL BEGIN THE PROCESS OF ORGANIZING THE SCHOOL.

3. THE U.S. WILL PROVIDE THE CONSULTANT'S SALARY, INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND ATTENDANT EXPENSES AND PER DIEM ACCORDING TO U.S. TRAVEL REGULATIONS; VENEZUELA WILL PROVIDE HIS INTERNAL LODGING (BUT NOT MEALS), INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION AND FULL ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT (INCLUDING OFFICE AND SECRETARIAL HELP).

4. VENEZUELA WILL PROVIDE A COUNTERPART PERSON TO ASSIST THE CONSULTANT IN HIS ACTIVITIES.

5. QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE CONSULTANT ARE THAT HE BE FULLY PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED FOR HIS WORK (IN PARTICULAR, THAT

HE BE TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED IN INSTRUCTION RELATING TO RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT) AND THAT HE HAVE

LATIN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE AND FLUENT SPANISH.

6. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE SCHOOL WILL BE ADMINISTRATIVELY A PART OF CIDIAT AND WILL HAVE THE FOLLOWING BASIC REQUISITES:

A. FACILITIES FOR LIVING AND INSTRUCTION OF AT LEAST 30 STUDENTS AND AVAILABILITY OF OTHER SITES FOR FIELD WORK AND VARIED EXPERIENCE.

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B. A BASIC COURSE FOR PARK AND RESERVE PERSONNEL OF 6-9 MONTHS INCLUDING BASIC RANGER SKILLS AND SCIENCE FUNDAMENTALS.

C.. SPECIALIZED AND ADVANCED COURSE CAPABILITIES ON CAMPUS AND AT OTHER LOCATIONS (INCLUDING OTHER COUNTRIES) IF NEEDED.

D. AN INSTRUCTION STAFF OF APPROXIMATELY SIX TEACHERS DRAWN FROM LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO THE EXTENT OF AVAILABILITY. (N.B. TWO VENEZUELAN STUDENTS NOW STUDYING EDUCATION WITH A FOCUS ON FORESTRY AND PARKS AT BANK STREET COLLEGE, N.Y., COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE TEACHING STAFF AND ALSO COULD BE GIVEN NPS IN-SERVICE TRAINING).

E. A DIRECTOR WITH THE EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITY TO ORGANIZE AND ADMINISTER THE SCHOOL. THE DIRECTOR SHOULD HAVE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME QUALIFICATIONS AS THE CONSULTANT (AND COULD BE THE SAME PERSON) AND WILL BE SELECTED WITHOUT PREJUDICE AS TO NATIONALITY ON THE BASIS THAT HE (SHE) IS THE MOST QUALIFIED PERSON AVAILABLE.

F. A GOVERNING BOARD OR COUNCIL WITH A VENEZUELAN CHAIRMAN AND OTHER VENEZUELAN MEMBERS, AS WELL AS MEMBERS FROM OTHER PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AND FROM PARTICIPATING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (UNEP, IUCN, FAO). THE MORE PRECISE COMPOSITION OF THIS BODY IS LEFT TO LATER DECISION BY THE SPONSORING PARTIES.

7. THE VENEZUELAN AND U.S. SIDES WILL RECOMMEND TO THEIR RESPECTIVE PRINCIPALS THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT RELATING TO THE SCHOOL SHOULD BE MADE DURING THE FORTHCOMING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PRESIDENTS PEREZ AND CARTER IN WASHINGTON THIS SUMMER. SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE CONTAINED IN THE PRESIDENTS' JOINT COMMUNIQUE. IT SHOULD EXPRESS MUTUAL

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DETERMINATION TO PROMOTE IMPLEMENTATION BY THE AMERICAN NATIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON NATURE PROTECTION AND WILDLIFE PRESERVATION IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE; IN THIS CONTEXT, IT SHOULD STATE THE INTENTION OF THE TWO COUNTRIES TO COLLABORATE IN A PROGRAM TO STUDY THE NEED AND PROSPECTS FOR FOR TRAINING OF PARK AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOPING FACILITIES FOR THIS PURPOSE.

8. THE PROPOSAL TO CREATE THE SCHOOL MAY BE DISCUSSED AT THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF AMAZON COUNTRIES ON NATURE CONSERVATION IN BRASILIA IN JULY 1977 BUT DISCUSSION WILL NOT BE INITIATED BY THE OFFICIAL VENEZUELAN REPRESENTATIVE BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES CONCERNING VENEZUELA ON THE PART OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. INSTEAD, FUDENA WILL SUGGEST TO THE IUCN REPRESENTATIVE AT THE MEETING, MR. FELIPE MATOS (A VENEZUELAN), THAT HE INTRODUCE THE SUBJECT AND EXPRESS IUCN INTEREST IN ITS DEVELOPMENT. IN THIS FASHION THE VIEWS OF THE OTHER MEMBERS ON THE PROPOSAL AND ON THE POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION BY THEIR COUNTRIES IN SUCH A SCHOOL WILL BE SOLICITED.

9. VENEZUELA IS WILLING TO HOST A MEETING OF EXPERTS SPONSORED BY THE OAS UNDER AUSPICES OF THE CONVENTION ON NATURE PROTECTION IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE TO DISCUSS AND DEVELOP A PROGRAM FOR TRAINING PARK AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS MEETING SHOULD BE USED TO MAKE A FINAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROSPECTS FOR PARTICIPATION BY A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO MAKE THE PROPOSED SCHOOL PROJECT WORTHWHILE.

10. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE MEETING OF EXPERTS WILL BE OF A TECHNICAL AND NOT OF A POLITICAL NATURE AND WILL BE LIMITED TO REPRESENTATIVES OF SELECTED COUNTRIES AND APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, TOTALING SOMEWHERE BETWEEN FIFTEEN AND TWENTY PERSONS ALTOGETHER.
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11. THE CONSULTANT SHOULD PLAY A KEY ROLE IN ORGANIZING AND PREPARING FOR THE MEETING OF EXPERTS, PARTICULARLY IN LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR DISCUSSION OF THE SCHOOL PROPOSAL AND WORKING OUT A CONSENSUS AMONG THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. THE MEETING SHOULD BE TIMED SO AS TO TAKE PLACE DURING THE FOURTH MONTH OF THE CONSULTANT'S TERM SO AS TO ALLOW AMPLE TIME FOR PREPARATION AS WELL AS FOLLOW UP.

12. IF THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE MEETING OF EXPERTS INDICATE SUFFICIENT INTEREST IN THE SCHOOL BY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, A STEERING COMMITTEE SHALL BE ELECTED FROM AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS TO ADVISE ON THE DETAILED PLANNING AND ON QUESTIONS WHICH ARISE IN THE PROCESS OF THE SETTING UP OF

THE SCHOOL. THE PRECISE FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THIS COMMITTEE WILL BE DEFINED BY THE MEETING OF EXPERTS.

13. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT, IF THE CONSENSUS OF THE MEETING

PARTICIPANTS FAILS TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL FOR THE SCHOOL, THE PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE ASKED TO CONSIDER AND ADVISE ON ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF MEETING TRAINING NEEDS. IN THIS CASE, THE U.S. AND VENEZUELA WOULD THEN CONSIDER JOINTLY WHAT ALTERNATIVE COURSE TO TAKE AND ACT ACCORDINGLY.

14. IF THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING OF EXPERTS ARE FAVORABLE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SCHOOL, THE SPONSORS WILL PROCEED ON THE PREVIOUSLY UNDERSTOOD BASIS CONCERNING THE COVERAGE OF COSTS:

A. VENEZUELA WILL PROVIDE FOR THE COSTS OF BUILDINGS, FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT.

B. THE U.S. WILL PROVIDE TWO INSTRUCTORS FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS WITH OPTION FOR CONTINUATION BASED ON THE NEEDS AND PERFORMANCE OF THS SCHOOL.
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C. VENEZUELA WILL TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN COLLABORATION WITH THE U.S. TO SEEK ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT. VENEZUELA'S RECENT PROPOSAL TO WORLD WILDLIFE FUND FOR THE PROVISION OF SALARY AND EMOLUMENTS FOR THE DIRECTOR'S POSITION IS NOTED IN THIS RESPECT. FORMAL PROPOSALS TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENTS SUCH AS UNEP, FAO AND CANADA WILL BE UNDERTAKEN AS APPROPRIATE AS SOON AS THE PROSPECTS FOR ESTABLISHING THE SCHOOL ARE FIRM.

D. FUTURE PROVISION FOR COVERING OPERATING COSTS OF THE SCHOOL WILL BE WORKED OUT BY THE SPONSORS AND PARTICIPATING PARTIES AFTER THE MEETING OF EXPERTS. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT A SOLUTION SIMILAR TO THAT UNDER WHICH CIDIAT NOW OPERATES WILL BE SOUGHT, IN WHICH THE INTERNATIONAL (NON-VENEZUELAN) TRAINEES' SHARE OF THE COSTS WOULD BE MET MAINLY BY SCHOLARSHIPS AND DIRECT TUITION PAYMENTS.

E. OAS OFFICIAL SPONSORSHIP FOR THE SCHOOL PROJECT WILL BE SOUGHT VIA THE MEETING OF EXPERTS AND SUBSEQUENT PROCESSES AS THE OAS REQUIRES. THE OAS MAY BE ASKED TO PROVIDE AND/OR ADMINISTER SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS.

F. DEPENDING ON THE SCHOOL'S NEEDS AND RECORD OF PERFORMANCE IN THE FIRST TWO YEARS, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WILL CONSIDER APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROVIDING FUNDS FOR AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF APPROXIMATELY FIVE YEARS TO MAKE UP THE UNCOVERED BALANCE OF OPERATING COSTS. WE WILL EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF HAVING THE OAS ADMINIST-

ER SUCH FUNDS IN THE FORM OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NON VENEZUELAN STUDENTS AND THEREAFTER TO PROVIDE FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP FUND FROM ITS OWN RESOURCES.

G. THE U.S. WILL PROVIDE INSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND ADVICE AS NEEDED AND AS ITS RESOURCES FOR THE PURPOSE AFFORD.

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15. THE SCHOOL WILL COOPERATE AND COORDINATE ITS OPERATIONS WITH CIDIAT AND THE SCHOOL OF FORESTRY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE ANDES. IT IS HOPED THAT THE LATTER INSTITUTIONS WILL RECIPROCATATE AND SHARE THEIR RESOURCES APPROPRIATELY WITH THE SCHOOL. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING REPORTS, WILD LIFE, PUBLIC PARKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
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Office: ORIGIN INT
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2013905
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSMISSION OF DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF US INTERIOR DEPARTMENT AND GOV MIN OF ENVIRONMENT
REPRESENTA- TIVES RE PROPOSED TRAINING CENTER FOR PARK AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL
TAGS: SENV, TATT, VE, US
To: CARACAS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0f229e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009